4,89,000 tonnes of Mild Steel and 25,000 tonnes of Special Steel during 1996-97. SAIL is trying to export a higher tonnage during 1997-98.

In this connection, the Ministry of Steel takes up requests from SAIL, on merits, with various related Government agencies from time to time.

Export of Coir products

*517. DR. MOHAN BABU:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target of export of coir products fixed for the current financial year and the actual quantum of export made so far;

(b) the reason for decline in export thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The target fixed for export for 1997-78 is Rs. 245.00 crores. In 1996-97 against a target of Rs. 211.00 crores, coir products worth Rs. 207.49 crores (provisional) have been exported.

(b) The main reasons for the shortfall in export are:—

(i) General sluggishness in international trade;

(ii) Abundant availability of attractive products made from other natural fibres such as sesal, abacca, jute, grass, etc. in the international market.

(c) The Coir Board which is a statutory body has taken various measures to boost the export of coir and coir products in the international market. The Board has undertaken joint publicity programme with British and German Coir Associations for promoting consumption of Indian Coir in these countries. In order to increase the export of coir products, the Board participates in important exhibitions abroad, deputes officials in market development missions and undertakes publicity programme.

Improvement in the quality of national statistics

*518. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated to improve the quality of national statistics and the data collected by various organisations as also to make them easily available to people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement containing the details is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Improvement in the quality of national statistics

1. The Indian Statistical System is a decentralised system, both territorially and subject-wise. Ministries and Departments at the Centre and the Corresponding Departments in the States are responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics relating to their subject areas. The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Department of Statistics at the national level and Directorate of Economics & Statistics in the States have the responsibility of coordination of statistical activities undertaken by different Ministries/Departments. The CSO compiles and disseminate data on National Accounts Statistics, Industrial Statistics based on Annual Survey of Industries, Economic Censuses and their follow up surveys, all-India Index of Industrial Production and Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees. The national Sample Survey Organisation in the Department conducts annual rounds of socio-economic surveys and undertakes the field work of Annual Survey of Industries and follow up surveys of the Economic Censuses.

2. The efficiency of the statistical system is

usually judged by the quality, timeliness and relevance to users of data produced and disseminated. The major shortcomings of the Indian statistical system relate to its antiquated data collection methods, centralised data entry and data validation processes, inadequate tabulation of data already collected, delays in the release of data/tabulated results, methods of dissemination of data, capability of the system to cope with the changing data needs and limited analytical and interpretative work.

3. Efforts are underway to reform the system and to take it farther for making it competitive with the best systems in the world, the Department of Statistics has embarked upon a massive project for modernisation of the entire Statistical System and has already taken initiatives to make concerted and coordinated efforts to effect all round improvement. These programmes encompass all components of the decentralised system viz. Central Government Departments and State Bureaus of Statistics. Salient features of these initiatives are summarised below:

4. *Modernisation of the System*

(a) Supply of hardware

(b) Supply of software

(c) Infrastructure for networking statistical sub-systems

(d) Training in statistical packages and in preparation of user software.

5. *Development of Human Resources*

(a) Strengthening of existing training facilities by establishing one Central Training Institute and five regional training centres.

(b) Training of personnel in statistical techniques

(c) Training for decision makers in use of statistics

(d) Study tours for exchange of experience

6. *Regional Conferences of States/UTs*

The Department of Statistics has organised three rounds of regional level conferences in July 95, October/November 95 and October/November 96 for establishing interaction with State Governments with a view to understanding their perceptions of inadequacies of the system and of areas of concerns which should be attended to on priority basis. The inputs coming from these conferences have been dovetailed into the proposals of the Department of Statistics.

7. *National Accounts Statistics*

The United Nations has brought out the revised System of National Accounts 1997 which has been recommended for adoption by member countries. The revised system provides for more coherent, consistent and inter related set of accounts for sectors and sub-sectors of the economy and for the economy as a whole. The Central Statistical Organisation has formulated a Plan Scheme to implement SNA 93, to the extent possible, for preparation of national accounts statistics in India.

8. *State Level Index of Industrial Production*

The Department of Statistics for the first time has initiated action for generation of comparable state-level indices and composite all-India Index of Industrial Production. Pilot exercises have been initiated to refine and finalise the methodology using 1984-85 data. A Technical Advisroy Committee has been constituted for the prupose of going into the technical details for evolving such a comparable series at the state-level and to enable aggregation at the national level into a composite index. The base year of the State IIPs will also be 1993-94 and the series are expected to be released when detailed results of ASI 93-94 have been made available. The CSO will also revise the base year of their present IIP series to the year 1993-94.

9. *Establishment of Training Institutes*

The Department of Statistics has proposed to establish two national statistical training Institutes. One of these institutes is proposed to be established preferably in or around Delhi as a full-fledged national level statistical training institute to cater to the complete training requirements of the statistical personnel at various levels working in the Central and State Statistical Organisations.

The second Institute is expected to cater to the needs of all categories of field staff located in the Central Government Departments and

State Government. The proposal envisages, in addition, strengthening of the existing educational institutions in the country enabling them to function as regional centres for catering to the training needs of official statisticians in each 'group of States/UTs'.

10. *Special Data Dissemination Standards*

(i) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) have established the Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS) and subscription to the SDDS was opened to member countries in April 96. India, is one of the selected countries, which has subscribed to the SDDS on 1.1.97 The SDDS prescribes time schedules, coverage and periodicity for various national statistics. The Department of Statistics (DOS) is the coordinating authority for the date categories of national accounts, production index, labour market and prices. The most important additional work arising out of SDDS relates to preparation of quarterly estimates of GDP. In order to meet the SDDS requirements on quarterly estimates of GDP, the DOS has initiated trial exercises to assess the problem areas in methodology and data availability.

(ii) Since the statistical system in India is broadly a decentralised one, preparation of quarterly GDP estimates requires strengthening the statistical system in the DOS as well as in various Departments for the purpose of generating the additional data required for compilation of quarterly GDP's.

11. *Release of Unpublished Data*

Traditionally, the outputs of statistical activities and programmes undertaken by various Government Departments have been made available to the users in the form of published reports. Generally speaking, these reports were based on analysis of only a partial data out of a rather large set of information collected, particularly through various large-scale sample surveys. While, on the one hand, the demand for unpublished data from researchers, private organisations and even Government Departments have been steadily growing, there has been no official policy for permitting easy access to unpublished data by the users. In fact, there has been a distinct tendency of various Government Departments to exhibit serious inhibition in parting with unpublished data in spite of the knowledge that the reports produced by them generally use a small part of the large data generated by the system.

With a view to promoting easy access to unpublished data by all types of users within the country and abroad, the Department reviewed the total system of dissemination of data in all its entirety and prepared a policy paper for release of these data to the users on convenient terms. The Government has cleared the policy for implementation. This policy envisages making available both published and unpublished data, within a specified time frame, on the media chosen by the user, e.g. CD-ROMs, floppies, magnetic tapes, etc. for a price. The Department has been asked to evolve a pricing policy giving preferential treatment to key Central Government Departments, students, and University research workers within the country.

12. *New Coverage of Statistics*

With the changing socio-economic scenario and cultural ethos of the country, new areas of concern have emerged necessitating generation of newer data sets. The Department has taken steps to develop (a) Environment Statistics, (b) Informal Sector Statistics, (c) Gender Statistics, and (d) a new series on Consumer Price Index Numbers separately for rural and urban areas.

मध्य प्रदेश में जनजातीय महिलाओं के लिए विशेष शिक्षा कार्यक्रम

*519. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मध्य प्रदेश के जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में रहने वाली महिलाओं के लिए कोई विशेष शिक्षा कार्यक्रम शुरू करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में कार्यक्रम-वार और जिला-वार और जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या शिक्षा के अभाव के कारण इन जनजातीय महिलाओं की दशा बहुत ही शोचनीय है;